8 June 1955

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Inspection of Container Produced by Lavoie Laboratories

1. On 7 June 1955, [redacted] of TSS/ED went to Office of Logistics to inspect a container produced by Lavoie Laboratories. Also present were [redacted] of Logistics and [redacted] of TSS. [redacted] represented Lavoie at the meeting. [redacted] is a Washington representative and not an engineer on the container. 25X1 25X1 25X1

2. The container is described as a "near-perfect moisture barrier". The example shown was approximately 18 inches high and 6 inches in diameter. Seal is effected by a "KEL-F Elastomer" gasket with several small spring clips forcing the top down on the rim of the container sandwiching an O-Ring gasket. The KEL-F Elastomer is compounded by Kellog Company.

3. It was the opinion of TSS/ED observers that such a container would probably be moisture-vapor proof. However, the mechanical design is not particularly suited to caching and burial. The use of spring clips has several hazards for caching; rusted springs may release or clips may be accidently snapped open during burial. The interesting and unique feature of the container is the use of a KEL-F gasket. KEL-F is known to have good moisture-vapor transmission properties and may be a suitable gasket if the physical properties meet requirements. It is doubtful if this type of seal with clips will withstand any considerable water pressure.

4. TSS/ED has several containers which it considers superior in seal and function to the container exhibited. However, a check on the use of KEL-F gaskets will be made with representatives of Army Ordnance and industry. If the use of KEL-F type gaskets is found promising, their use will be considered in future ED containers. It should be noted that Mr. Shay stated that his company is not interested in supplying gaskets for test, but only in designing and supplying entire containers. Complete information is not yet available on the physical properties of the gasket and caution should be observed until all values have been determined and known to be reproduceable.

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DD/P/TSS/ED/[redacted] mt

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SECRET CONFIDENTIAL

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NY Times 21 May 1955

* * *

A firing device can give a Navy "frogman" three minutes to get away after setting demolition charges in enemy waters.

It is the invention of Charles A. Borcher, an engineer formerly on the staff of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory here, who is now with the Miller Research Laboratories in Baltimore.

The apparatus is intended to destroy shore or underwater barriers and wire entanglements. The inventor says it could also be used to blow up secret military equipment in danger of falling into enemy hands.

The firing device is inside a waterproof tube. When he has his explosive charges and their connecting explosive cord in place, the diver jerks a ring at the end of the tube. This explodes a cap and lights a train of slow burning power called "pyrotechnic delay." In three minutes the flame reaches the explosive cord, which detonates along with the attached charges. Mr. Borcher got Patent 2,708,409.

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TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1955.

MOISTURE CONTAINER IS SHOWN BY LAVOIE

Lavoie Laboratories, Inc., Morganville, N. J., demonstrated at a press showing at Leone's Restaurant yesterday a new container said to be the "first near-perfect moisture barrier container." The new container can be made of a variety of metals, including aluminum, steel, brass, copper and stainless steel. It may be opened and reclosed without losing its moisture barrier protection.

Called a "Humid-Trol," the container reportedly will have widespread use in preserving materials that must be stored and protected from heat, frost, moisture or water vapor. Company officials expect adaptations of the unit to be used in storing such diverse items as hermetically sealed equipment of all types, special electronics gear, jet and rocket engines, medical supplies, surgical kits, films and microfilms, drawings and rubberized goods.

Company officials report there is practically no limit to the size of the containers, with four-foot diameters and twenty-foot lengths feasible. Explanation of the moisture control lies in the type of seal and its material, which spokesmen would describe only as being a "fluorocarbon elastomer." Prices are said to be competitive with presently available rigid containers.

Seventh Brazilian Bank Shuts

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 23 (UP) — The Banco Brasileiro Unido closed its doors today and asked for official liquidation. The action brought to seven the number of important banking institutions closed here in São Paulo and in Belo Horizonte in the last three months due to stiffened credit conditions.

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